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M. E. STEARNS

College News

Vol. 9. No. 16. WELLESLEY, MASS., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1910 Price 5 Cents

SOCIETY CONGRESS.

The Society Congress held its first meeting February 5, 1910, at President Hazard's house, Miss Hazard in the chair. The roll was called as follows:

Four members of the Faculty: Professor Charlotte F. Roberts, '80, Zeta Alpha; Professor Katharine Lee Bates, '80, Phi Sigma; Professor Anna Jane McKeag, Miss Agnes F. Perkins.

Six society Alumnæ: Zeta Alpha, Frances Hill, 1909; Tau Zeta Epsilon, Mrs. Warrene R. Permar, '97; Shakespeare, Florence Besse, 1907; Phi Sigma, Mary W. Dewson, '97; Alpha Kappa Chi, Winifred Hawkridge, 1905; Agora, Mary Leavens, 1901.

Six non-society Alumnæ: Mrs. Mary G. Ahlers, '88; Betsy Baird, 1908; Jane F. Beers, 1900; Elizabeth M. Brown, '82; Caroline T. Cook, '84; Clara R. Keene, '96, and Annie Philbrick, 1902, substitute for Miss Baird for the succeeding sessions.

Six society undergraduates: Zeta Alpha, Hester R. Davies; Tau Zeta Epsilon, Bertha T. Cottrell; Shakespeare, Kate E. Cushman; Phi Sigma, Harriet E. Hinchliffe; Alpha Kappa Chi, Alice L. [illegible]wood; The Agora, Mary P. Ingalls.

Six non-society undergraduates: Frances H. Kelly, Bernice Williams, 1910; Harriet Finch, Kate Parsons, 1911; Dorothy Summy, president of 1912; Mary E. Colt, president of 1913.

Every delegate was present excepting Miss Keene.

Miss Dewson was elected secretary.

President Hazard: We have met to consider a question concerning the welfare of the college. This is, so to speak, an altruistic movement starting from within the societies. Will Miss Ingalls open the discussion by speaking for the Agora, since the Agora has taken the initiative in this movement?

Miss Ingalls (President of Agora): We have been misunderstood. We do not wish to break up the societies and leave a void, but to reconstruct the social life of the college so that the privileges of societies may be open to all. Little reforms inside the societies would not do this. A sweeping reform is necessary, and at the least a change in the basis of membership is desired. The Agora offers this plan, which we do not consider perfect, as a basis for discussion: Each society should take for its basis some definite line of study. Any student majoring in that subject would be eligible. If a student showed ability in the work of another society—for instance, dramatic or musical—she might apply to that society and a membership committee would decide impersonally on her eligibility. If too many applied for the capacity of the houses, there could be more societies, but only the upper classes would be eligible. The argument that numbers would work against fellowship is disproved by the inspiration numbers give to Student Government and the Christian Association.

Professor Bates moved that every speaker should post to the secretary within forty-eight hours a synopsis of her points. Carried.

Miss Baird (1908): There should be a plan devised so that every student should have a chance to do society work along the line she might elect.

Miss Hawkridge (Alpha Kappa Chi, 1905), moved that a tentative vote be taken as to whether the societies should be carried on.

Miss Cook wished more information before voting.

Miss Bates asked that the advantages and disadvantages of societies should be presented before voting on the motion.

Miss Williams (representing the non-society members of 1910): With six exceptions, those being indifferent, the Senior non-society girls are a unit in holding that the societies need radical reform. We consider the exclusiveness and the present basis of membership the two fundamental evils. Girls who have worked for their college and their class, girls of mental and academic achievement, go unrecognized and have no opportunity to work along the lines of their special interests. The ideals of work are good, but the members do not try to live up to them. Minor evils, as "rushing," would fall away with a change in the basis of membership. So far the non-society members of the Senior class stand pretty well agreed. On the plans for reform we are not so united. The first tendency was to vote that societies be abolished in favor of class organizations. Later, broadly speaking, Agora's plan was favored so that every girl in her Junior or Senior year would have an opportunity to belong to a society and to carry on the work that particularly interests her.

Miss Cottrell (President of Tau Zeta Epsilon): A third of our members favor radical changes, such as basing membership almost entirely on work or opening the societies to all members of the upper classes who apply. The rest favor definite changes in the method of issuing invitations, etc. The plan of forming large and important college clubs to take the work heretofore done by the societies and leaving the societies as minor social organizations meets with general approval.

Miss Summy (President of 1912): If reform in the societies were found inexpedient, not more than ten Sophomores would vote for their abolishment, but the majority favor Agora's plan. If the numbers should be too cumbersome, the eligible list might be lessened by heightening the academic standard.

President Hazard: The property question is a serious one. A clever lawyer gave me the offhand opinion that technically the society houses are "squatters" as they have no land right, having been given a permit to build on the land at the pleasure of the owners, but that the houses, in so far as they are portable property, belong to the societies. We count upon Miss Cook to look up the question and report to the Congress.

Miss Hawkridge: Could anyone but the Alumnæ of the societies make a radical change?

Miss Hazard: The girls in college could make a recommendation on which the Alumnæ would act.

Miss Parsons (representing the non-society members of 1911): We have more on our hands than the question of what shall we do with the society houses. There is little doubt but that destruction will leave a void and the realization of the need for societies—reformed—is what makes almost every non-society girl opposed to their abolition. Very few girls of 1911 approve the society as it now stands—the disapproval of the majority is directed toward the basic evil of societies—the pricinple of the selection of members. The feeling is not on the whole personal—the hurt sensitiveness of the non-society girl has been largely overdone. It is not her personal but her community feeling that has been touched. The great majority feel strongly that unless the possibility of invitation is absolutely done away with and application for membership substituted, that reform can be nothing but temporary.

Miss Beers (1900): The societies have brought so much good and pleasure into the college life, not only to their members, but to many others, that to abolish them would seem too radical a measure. The question seems rather to be, are there not dangers to be guarded against and evils to be remedied in order to make the societies contribute more to the good of the college at large?

Is not one of these dangers the existence of a false social line, not recognized definitely, perhaps, by the society members, but felt, more or less acutely, by non-members?

It seems to me that an ideal community of college women, avowedly democratic, should, by reason of common purposes and ideals, be so homogeneous that there would be no place for social divisions.

If the present basis of society membership does draw such a line in offering special privileges to a limited number, is it not time

(Continued on page 4)

College News.

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All subscriptions should be sent to Miss Alice R. Porter.

All advertising correspondence should be addressed to Miss B. M. Beckford, Wellesley.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, Kate S. Parsons, 1911
ASSOCIATE EDITOR, Ruth Evans, 1911
LITERARY EDITORS,
Emily D. Miler, 1911 Dorothy Mills, 1911
Muriel Bacheler, 1912
ALUMNÆ EDITOR, Elizabeth W. Manwaring, 1902
BUSINESS MANAGER, Elizabeth Nofsinger, 1910
SUBSCRIPTION EDITOR, Alice R. Porter, 1910
ASSISTANTS,
Ridie Guion, 1911 Frances Gray, 1912

"Entered as second class matter, November 12, 1903, at the Post Office at Wellesley, Mass., under the Act of Congress, March 3, 1879."

EDITORIAL.

IN LAST WEEK'S NEWS a request was published that no more opinions on the society question be sent to our Free Press column. Lest past and prospective contributors should evolve from this a damper for their good deeds or laudable intentions, we elaborate the statement. The NEWS pigeonhole is still full of Free Presses; the NEWS mail box holds a new one nearly every other day. Somebody's Free Press is going to waste unless we continue publication through the summer. Now, while the enlightenment of the college-as-a-whole on this momentous question, is necessary, still said college-as-a-whole has had sufficient light on the subject to be able to think. Beyond that, the college-as-a-whole isn't required to do anything. Present action is confined to the Society Congress and it is upon this body that we ask you to bring your influence to bear. For the reason that the Society Congress needs your opinion, we are closing the discussion of the society question in the NEWS, thereby saving your valuable opinions, Alumnæ and undergraduates, from the mildew of the NEWS pigeon-hole, and turning them into channels where they will be effectual.

We do not need to urge the Alumna for an expression of her opinion. Her interest is live and active; it is the undergraduate who hesitates to help by offering her opinion. From the row of you here in Wellesley who top the fence we ask definite help, meaning by definite something more tangible than a rambling conversation with your roommate. If you have a plan for a reconstructed society or only part of a plan, a scheme of work, a scheme of membership—write it down and send it to your representative in the Congress. Don't expect thirty people to produce a plan that will satisfy thirteen hundred,—not mentioning Alumnæ, by the way,—when they have but a faint intimation of what the thirteen hundred want.

The main debatable issues for the next meeting of the Congress will probably be method of selection for membership and purpose of the society. What you think about this is of considerable importance. Do you think a girl should become a member of a society by invitation, by application or by lot? Do you believe in making work the basis of a society, or do you hold it to be best as a purely social center, or would you leave arrangements as they are? Please write your representative, not individually if it is possible to combine in small groups—and tell her what you think. Please don't tell her what you don't think and what you don't want; only positive opinion can be of use.

The Editorial of this month's Magazine strikes a note which can well be enforced. The Magazine pleads for less "local color" in our literary productions and for greater breadth of conceptions,—fewer etchings and bigger canvasses. The Magazine, like the rest of Wellesley, is satiated with detail, with pictures of "real life" which amount to little beside depictions of sensations. The only way that the manufacturers of our college fiction are going to get out of the rut is by turning aside from the stream of appreciative adjectives and exposing their sensitive natures to criticism. The college girl is afraid of being laughed at, of being harshly criticised; she never loses herself long enough to forget what people will think of her theme. Result: Smooth, pretty work, but hopelessly neutral. The theme which reduces criticism to "interesting" or "an artistic presentation" is nothing more than a duty accomplished; that theme is worth infinitely more which arouses an instructor to a page of discussion or expostulation.

We do not argue for neglect of detail, inferring thereby hasty "inspired" work. Spend just as much time on your themes, but give them something more than adjectives. The realism of actions is larger than the realism of the sun on the front porch and the village street. Don't be afraid to venture into something bigger than you are—write an epic, write a drama—it will do you good and your instructor may criticize, but she will be grateful.

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THE UNTAMED GIRDLE OF PALESTINE.

On Tuesday evening, February 8, in College Hall Chapel, Dr. Ellsworth Huntington of Yale University lectured on the results of a geologic expedition he had made to Palestine. Dr. Huntington's journey was made in behalf of the Department of Geology at Yale, and had the study of the Dead Sea as its main object. He made, however, many interesting observations on the geographic conditions of the country as a whole, the climatic changes, and particularly their effect on the life of the people. In the interesting narrative of his experiences, Dr. Huntington called particular attention to three points: first, the diversity of Palestine, in a section stretching one hundred and fifty miles from southwest to northeast, condi-

(Concluded on page 8.)

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COLLEGE CALENDAR.

Thursday, February 17, at 4.20, P.M., in the Houghton Memorial Chapel, the third organ recital by Professor MacDougall.

Saturday, February 19. The Glee Club concert.

Sunday, February 20, at 11, A.M., service in the Houghton Memorial Chapel. Sermon by Dr. Henry S. Nash of the Episcopal Theological School of Cambridge.

Vespers at 7, P.M. Special music.

Monday, February 21. The Glee Club concert.

COLLEGE NOTES.

The Christian Association held a service of evening prayer last Thursday evening. Miss Tufts read prayers in College Hall Chapel, Miss Lathrop in the village.

At the Hotel Vendôme in Boston, on Tuesday afternoon, February 15, the Brown Alumni Association gave a reading for the benefit of the Wellesley Student Aid Society. Mrs. Lorin F. Deland (Margaret Deland) read several of her own stories, and Mrs. Paton and the Misses Paton sang twice during the evening.

Ex-President Eliot of Harvard visited Wellesley last Thursday.

Tea was served to the Freshmen on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons last week in the Christian Association office. On Saturday afternoon it was served in Wood parlors.

Last Saturday night, Eliot Cottage, with a few of its friends, enjoyed a dance at the Barn.

At vespers last Sunday evening, Mr. Ferenga of North Land College, Ashland, Wisconsin, told of his work among the Poles and Finns of Wisconsin. The service anthem, "Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken," was written by Mr. Hamilton. The organ selections were the Andante in F major, by Beethoven and Saint-Saens' "Elevation."

EXHIBITION OF STUDENTS' WORK IN THE ART BUILDING.

On Saturday afternoon, February fifth, there was a private view of the exhibition of the first semester's work in clay modeling, Course 5, and work in the study and application of the principles of design, Course 16. Both exhibitions were held in the rooms, where the classes work —Art 5 in its basement work-room and Art 16 in its attractive studio on the second floor. The college was invited to see the work on Monday and Tuesday.

In the basement the uncompromising piers and whitewashed walls of the modeling room were in part concealed by draperies, which, with plants and flowers, gave the color needed to set off the clay work, but did not disguise the workshop character of the room. Every student in the class was represented by a piece of modeling. Most of the work showed understanding of the fundamental shapes and planes, the basis of all intelligent study of plastic form —and a few added to this a good handling of detail and some delicacy of surface modeling. Among the best was the head of an old man by Grace Slack, a monk by Helen Wilson and heads by Ruth Henderson and Dorothy Gerould.

The work in Art 16 was arranged to show the progressive steps in the course toward the development of appreciation of design and the invention of original design. The first drawings made were copies to train the eye in the appreciation of line as a decorative motive in itself. Later this training was applied to original designs. Following this were studies from nature carried out in black and white, and black and white and gray, to train the eye to see the beauty of simple contrast. The same method was used in original designs for posters and initial letters. The last series of problems in the course were to train the eye to appreciate the beauty of more subtly related tones in which distinct contrasts were still preserved. Most interesting results were obtained in designs for fans and book plates.

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LOAN COLLECTION.

The Art Department has recently added to the Loan Collection a number of pictures which may be borrowed for the second semester. Some of them are of a larger size than many of the older pictures, and they will fill a large wall space attractively. They include a large landscape by Ruisdael, one of the most famous of the Dutch landscape painters; Holbein's Portrait of Erasmus from the Louvre; Hope, by George Frederick Watts; the head of Giorgione's Sleeping Venus, a most lovely detail; the Madonna, Child and St. John, in the Louvre, formerly attributed to Botticelli; a large carbon copy of the head of the Hermes of Praxiteles, and two new Medici prints.

The Medici prints are very successful color reproductions of the works of old masters, and the two prints selected for the Loan Collection are among the most charming of the series. One is a bewitching little putto peeping out from under a vine—by Bramantino, and the other is the Archangel Gabriel, by Melozzo da Forli, in the Uffizi, both of which are delightful in their soft coloring.

Borrowers from the Loan Collection are reminded that pictures taken for the first semester must be returned or renewed on February 22.

EXHIBITION OF LANDSCAPE STUDIES.

An exhibition of landscape studies by Mr. Frederick S. Pratt is now being held in the Farnsworth Art Gallery.

Mr. Pratt is one of the trustees of the Worcester Art Museum. His sketches have been done in the spare time of a life full of other activities, and each one has about it a suggestion of the pleasure of hours spent out of doors. The happiness in them is contagious, making the exhibition particularly enjoyable.

All the sketches were made directly from nature—even those of the snow-covered uplands. The delicate studies of the sea were most of them taken from the Cape Cod region, Marblehead and Swampscott. They are full of subtle opalescent colors, simply seen and recorded. The rows of willows by a stream, studied several times in spring or early summer, were taken from the outskirts of Worcester, as were a number of other studies. They indicate the picturesque character of this whole region so near at hand.

We are greatly indebted to Mr. Pratt for the kind loan of his paintings.

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SOCIETY CONGRESS—Continued.

that Wellesley Alumnæ as well as undergraduates recognize the fact and work together to bring about a better state of affairs? Unfavorable comment has been made by visitors on hearing society girls speak of the "outside college."

Miss Hinchliffe (President of Phi Sigma): The "outside college" is not a term that I have heard used by society girls. We are opposed to abolishing societies, but minor changes are favored. No definite plan is suggested. The departmental club plan is opposed.

Miss Baird: The very fact that society members try not to condescend toward non-society girls proves the social line.

Miss Colt (President of 1913): At the Freshman class meeting the question was openly discussed.

One spoke for the present society basis.

Eleven spoke for societies in general.

Eight spoke against societies in general.

Nine spoke for a different basis.

It was voted as the feeling of the class that societies should remain, but on a basis that should satisfy the society members.

Miss Hawkridge: The question has been put before the college in such a way that statistics give a false estimate of the non-society girl's attitude. It has been taken for granted that there is something terrible about societies. This assumption makes these votes unfair.

Miss Cushman (President of Shakespeare): No member of the Shakespeare Society is in favor of abolishing societies. The majority would confine the membership to Juniors and Seniors. All favor a definite and openly-known basis of membership. A small number, less than ten, would have the members chosen on a strictly work basis, solving the invitation question. They argue that a community of interest would foster fellowship. Society members might take advanced courses in their special subjects, and a Faculty member might guide the informal discussions at the houses. A few favor application for membership; several think the applications should be voted on by the societies and several are opposed to applications, claiming that the spirit of fellowship would be lost and that it would be worse to refuse an application than to leave some girls without an invitation. Congeniality must be recognized; many emphasize this as one of the most important phases of society life and fear that without it inspiration for work and fellowship would disappear and harmful cliques would form in the societies. A few favor additional societies.

Miss Hawkridge restated her motion as follows:

RESOLVED, That in the opinion of this conference, reform in the constitution of the societies in Wellesley is desirable.

Miss Besse moved to amend the motion by inserting the word "organization" in place of "constitution." Carried.

The amended motion was then put to a vote and carried with but one opposing voice. (Miss Hawkridge dissented, since none of the plans as yet suggested seemed to her to be better than the existing state of things.)

Miss Leavens (Agora, 1901): It has been suggested that societies are much worse now than they used to be, but these difficulties are not a late development. In 1892 societies were guilty of organized exclusiveness, shutting off the friendly and often much-needed association of non-society girls with those in societies.

Miss Philbrick (1902): There is a sharp social line. Without societies there might still be cliques, but they would not have, as societies have, the formal sanction of the college. Everything else at Wellesley, every class, every organization, is open to the student who will make the necessary effort to fit herself for membership. The societies alone are undemocratic in that they have an arbitrary standard of admission. The basis of societies is contrary to what Wellesley stands for.

Miss Dewson (Phi Sigma, '97): Societies can be vitally useful in fostering idealism in those most eager and ready for its expression. Bring together the most earnest members of the college, as shown by their work, or by their public spirit. They will inspire each other and give tone to the college, where now they may be smothered by the purely social girl. They will learn to enjoy each other because they have real interests. Six societies would allow for those most akin to get together. A club that sets out to be congenial has to use a low common divisor. A central committee could pass on the eligibility of all applicants to whatsoever society. The members' recreation time would be free from extra academic work. There would not be the drag of formal meetings but the stimulus of spontaneous gatherings of members, their college friends, and guests from the world. There are many meetings for those interested in one particular line, but no meeting place for those interested in deeper things from many points of view. Undue prominence would no longer be fostered by plays, etc. We admire others' real superiority, where we resent their being given privileges because they have social pull.

Miss Hazard: There are six associations for work now where the students have come together spontaneously: The Star-Gazers, Alliance Francaise, Deutsche Verein, Debating Club, Rhymsters' Club, Scribblers' Club.

Miss Hawkridge: Since the subject of the department clubs has been mentioned, I should like to make a comparison of two kinds of clubs whose interests were on the basis of department work. While in college I belonged to several clubs whose only membership restriction was community of academic interest, and I belonged also to the Scribblers' Club, an organization with an exceedingly limited membership composed of people whose interest was in the practice of writing —a club which admitted the theory that the pleasure and effectiveness of work is greatly affected by the personal equation. For this reason, the membership of Scribblers' was not open to all girls who evinced an interest in English or who had reached a certain standard of proficiency in writing. The membership, I believe, was limited to fifteen and was not subject to application. Frequently girls of great ability were not invited to join, if their individuality was felt to be such that it would be a bar to the freedom and congeniality of the circle, and consequently hinder the value of the work. Quite as much as the secret societies, it recognized the fact that community of interests is not identical with community of spirit. And to me, and I have frequently heard other Scribblers say the same, the value and stimulus received from Scribblers' outweighed by far the value of all other departmental clubs which were more unwieldy in size, and which ignored the personal equation. It was, in fact, the only club primarily academic in interest, in which I found appreciable enthusiasm or stimulus. By means of their numbers and inclusiveness the others were merely class-room extensions.

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SOCIETY CONGRESS—Continued.

I do not believe that by making the membership qualification of societies academic, the charge of snobbishness will be eliminated. There is, for example, a snobbishness of intellect, and there may be a moral snobbishness. I believe in human intercourse, at college or otherwhere; there are other qualities to be recognized, and I believe that often the society has recognized and made a definite place, as no other organization in college has, for the girl whose abilities may often be only moderate, but who has the talent of womanliness.

I do not think the solution of the society difficulty lies either in the plan of making society interests purely academic or purely social. I believe the present combination, if it could be more definitely defined, has as a result of this blending a more valuable quality than either of the two taken separately.

Miss Davies (President of Zeta Alpha): One or two members of Zeta Alpha would abolish societies. The great majority favor a change in the basis of membership. Some would accept the Agora plan; others would prefer a mixture of the academic and social. Some few suggest Junior and Senior societies, open to application.

Miss Atwood (President of Alpha Kappa Chi): It is strongly held by Alpha Kappa Chi that the standards and ideals of each society should be openly known. The majority favor slight changes rather than radical reforms except in the method of invitation. Two plans have been suggested: There should be either clubs with certain definite work,—art, music, classics, literature, etc., the membership being limited to definite grade or marked efficiency in the special line of work; or secondly, there should be social clubs with no work, open on application. Membership should be confined to Juniors and Seniors.

Mrs. Permar (Tau Zeta Epsilon, '97): Clubs of some sort will exist. Cliques lack the incentive of society ideals. A radical reform, such as application for membership on a scholarship basis, is equivalent to abolishing the societies, for a large membership would remove social interest and make department clubs of them, and cliques would spring up outside the clubs and inside them, too, from their lack of unity. Moderate reforms should be tried first. Rushing could be lessened by a system of invitation by rotation. The societies might make lists of the girls they wish to ask in the order preferred and then draw lots for choice. The society winning first choice would invite the first girl named on her list; the second choice, the first named on hers (provided she is not already taken), etc. Each girl receives but one invitation at a time and cannot be invited to another society until the next time of asking, which might come but twice a year. There should be a definite basis for invitation openly known; larger membership; and more co-operation of societies with class members in regard to those worthy of society recognition. Each Sophomore might send in sixty names of those whom she considered should be in societies, and upper-class girls, twenty names.

Miss Finch (representing non-society girls of 1911): It has been said that the non-society girl may be strengthened by her disappointment; but is it necessary for the college or for the societies to provide this method of developing our character? Each Sophomore class suffers from the evils attending rushing. Ordinary girls who desire to enter a society must choose their acquaintances with an eye on their society connections.

Miss Ingalls: The attitude of non-society girls has been too much ignored. When we speak of the benefit of societies to the college we must keep in mind the benefit to the whole college and not to society members alone.

Miss Ingalls moved that the next meeting be held on Saturday, February 26, at 3.20, the place to be posted.

President Hazard instructed the secretary to employ a stenographer and send the record of the meeting to the members.

Miss Bates moved that since the deliberations are a matter of interest to the college at large, the record in full be printed in the NEWS week after next. Carried.

Miss Cook moved that the vote taken at this meeting should be put in the next issue. Carried.

Moved to adjourn to February 26th.

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MISS YOUNGMAN'S NEW BOOK.

The New York Times Saturday Review for February 12, publishes a review of Miss Youngman's new book which considers the source of some of our large American fortunes. We quote the first paragraph of the review:

"There is nothing feminine about the discussion of the 'Economic Causes of Great Fortunes,' by Anna Youngman, Ph.D., (the Bankers' Publishing Company). She is Professor of Economics in Wellesley College for Women, but she writes as a man to men, rather than as a woman to women. She considers the Astor fortune as one illustrative of gains both by commerce and by the unearned increment of land ownership. She considers the Gould fortune as illustrative of a fortune gathered by stock manipulation. As examples of fortunes gained by group activities she considers the fortunes of the Standard Oil and Morgan cliques. She narrates the growth of these fortunes with much piquancy, which is redeemed from mere muckraking by the steadiness with which she adheres to her purpose of discussing the underlying causes which explain how the fortunes were gathered, and whether or not they were 'earned' or acquired by personal ability. Her conclusion seems to be that effort or ability sufficed chiefly to determine the direction in which the growing wealth should be turned rather than the amount of reward either earned or received by the recipient."

ART EXHIBITIONS.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS: Etchings by Whistler.
KIMBALL'S GALLERY: Fantin-Latour and Monticelli.
DOLL AND RICHARDS': Engravings by Nantueil.
COPLEY GALLERY: Mr. Little's Paintings.
COPLEY GALLERY: Miss Thompson's Water-colors.
FRANKLIN UNION: Loan Exhibition of Paintings.
COPLEY HALL: The Aoki Collection.
VOSE'S GALLERY: Boughton and Church.
NORMAL ART GALLERY: Miss Richardson's Paintings.
COBB'S GALLERY: Mr. Smith's Water-colors.

THEATER NOTES.

HOLLIS-STREET: Maud Adams.
MAJESTIC: "The Melting Pot."
TREMONT: "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm."
PARK: "The Man from Home."
SHUBERT: "The Midnight Sons."
COLONIAL: "The House Next Door."

VACATION BOARD.

A small party may secure good board and rooms at the shore for Washington's Birthday or the Easter vacation, in a quaint old farmhouse on Cape Cod by writing to Mrs. Frank Lyon, Barleyneck Cottage, East Orleans, Mass.

LOST.

On February 4, between Beebe Hall and the village, a black Waterman fountain pen. Finder please return to Florence DuBois, 50 Beebe Hall.

BOSTON OPERA HOUSE
A monograph by F. H. Jackson, illustrated with portraits and diagrams of the seats, and blank leaves for making notes of the various OPERAS and ARTISTS from the first performance. Can also be used as an AUTOGRAPH Album. Price, $1.00; by mail, $1.15
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ALUMNÆ NOTES.

In addition to notes concerning graduates, the Alumnæ column will contain items of interest about members of the Faculty, past and present, and former students.

Miss Bessie Sargeant Smith, 1895, regarding whom a notice appeared in the NEWS for February 2, is a niece of Mr. Henry Fowle Durant, not, as the notice incorrectly stated, of Mrs. Durant.

ENGAGEMENTS.

Miss Henrietta Helmboldt, 1907, to Mr. Jasper Sprague Dunham, Dartmouth, 1908, now of Spokane, Washington, and recently of New York City.

Miss Claire Jaquith, 1906, to Mr. Charles Warren Fowle, Harvard, 1905, of the American Embassy, Constantinople.

MARRIAGES.

JONES—SAWYER. January 12, 1910, at South Bend, Indiana, Miss Adah C. Sawyer, 1909, to Mr. Victor F. Jones. At home, 521 West Washington Avenue, South Bend, Indiana.

WHITHEAD—MOORE. November, 1909, Miss Vera A. Moore, formerly of the Class of 1910, to Mr. Houghton Hamilton Whitehead, Technology, 1911.

MCMULLEN—KIMBALL. June 8, 1909, at Springfield, Massachusetts, Miss Crete Kimball, 1907, to Mr. Roy A. McMullen of Columbus, Ohio.

BIRTHS.

December 5, 1909, a daughter, Frances, to Mrs. William J. Miller (Alice Schouler, 1896).

November 22, 1909, a daughter to Mrs. Walter C. Howe (Amelie Ely, 1898).

In October, 1909, a daughter to Mrs. Gustave Reuss (Paula Schoellkopf, of the class of 1900).

DEATHS.

In July, 1909, Dr. C. O. Hunt, father of Mrs. John F. Dana (Helen Hunt, 1898).

In May, 1909, in Florence, Italy, Mr. William Eliot Smith, father of Ellen and Eunice Smith, 1898.

January 29, 1910, in New York City, Charles Montague, cousin (not brother, as given in last week's NEWS) of Annie Sybil Montague, 1879.

January 29, 1910, in Philadelphia, Bishop Cyrus David Foss, father of Helen Foss (Mrs. George B. Wood, 1894).

THE COMET AND STAR SYSTEM.

Monday evening, February 7, Professor William R. Brooks of Geneva, New York, lectured in College Hall Chapel on "The Comet and Star System." The lecture touched upon two phases of astronomy which might be termed popular,—the question of canals on Mars and the much-discussed Halley's comet. It is, of course, said Professor Brooks, prefectly possible that Mars is inhabited. The planet has a distinct atmosphere; it furthermore possesses an ice cap which melts in summer, producing verdure along the canals. Thus climatic conditions make habitation possible, though little direct proof for this has as yet been produced. The hypothesis that Venus is also inhabited is more difficult to uphold because of the greater proximity of this planet to the sun. Conjecture hovers around many of the other planets, but the most definite data has been supplied from the observation of Mars. Professor Brooks showed lantern slides of Mars, as well as diagrammatic representations of the solar system.

In speaking of comets, Professor Brooks divided them into two general classes, the wandering and the periodical. He further illustrated their methods of traveling, in an ellipse, hyperbola or parabola. Slides were shown of comets with a varying number of tails. Halley's comet, said Professor Brooks, we are to look for in March. It is possible that the earth will pass through the tail, but that will not be noticeable unless the phenomenon occurs at night. The passage will, in that case, be marked by an unusual number of meteors. To supplement the comet pictures, Professor Brooks showed slides of spiral and ringed nebulæ, among them the large-ringed nebula of Andromeda.

Professor Brooks is well equipped for such a lecture, being one of our most prominent astronomers. He has done valuable work in astronomical photography and has thus far discovered twenty-three comets, a greater number than that of any other astronomer living. He is well known as the founder of the Red House Observatory at Phelps, N. Y., and is a member of the Royal Astronomical Society.

ORGAN RECITAL.

The following program was given February 10, at the second of Professor MacDougall's Midyear Organ Recitals, illustrating the Italian school:

Canzona ..... Andrea Gabrieli
Ricercare ..... Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
Toccata ..... Claudio Merulo
Fugue in G minor }
Capriccio Pastorale } ..... Girolamo Frescobaldi
Alleluia ..... M. Enrico Bossi
Overture in F minor ..... Giovanni Morandi

STUDENT GOVERNMENT MEETING.

On Tuesday afternoon, February 9th, a Student Government meeting was held in College Hall Chapel. The NEWS and Magazine amendments were passed. The discussion of an open Tree Day was postponed until the next meeting, on account of the moderate attendance. The new proctoring system was briefly discussed. Miss Mapes then spoke, emphasizing the necessity for quiet in College Hall Chapel during the midyear examination period.

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THE UNTAMED GIRDLE OF PALESTINE—

Continued from Page 2.

tions varied as greatly as in the land between New England and Arizona, a distance of over three thousand miles; secondly, the relative inaccessibility of Judea, and thirdly, the present climate as compared with the past, and the evidence of these changes economically and historically.

Palestine is a belted coastal plain, and is divided in strips running north and south. There is the coastal lowland, the low hills of the Shephelah, the desert of Judah, and the depression of the Dead Sea. Away from the coast, the cactus becomes plentiful, and some grain is grown. At the outskirts of the towns of this region mud storehouses may be seen.

The low hills of Shephelah are bare and treeless; there is some grain, but nothing else grows except a few olive trees. The villages are situated on the tops of hills. Among these hills are many ruins, and remains of former occupation. The plateau itself is well-dissected, uplifted, and formed of horizontal strata. There is little water, and grain grows scantily on the top of the terraces. This grain is too hard to be cut with a sickle, and each stalk of wheat must be gathered separately. There is only one good road on the plateau.

Dr. Huntington showed us several views of the towns of this belt, ancient houses built under mounds of earth, the olive trees of Bethlehem, the shrine of Moses, the site for which the Mohammedans had suddenly "discovered" thirty or forty years ago, when they felt the need of another shrine. This plateau has very hard access. The descent to the depression of the Dead Sea is very stony. Invasion to Judea from the east is well nigh impossible.

The depression of the Dead Sea is very hot and dry, and practically uninhabitable. A company of salt gatherers warned Dr. Huntington of a band of plunderers on the northwest end. The next day Dr. Huntington found not the plunderers against whom he had been warned, but still another band in possession. The Arabs are thus driven to plunder and fight by poverty. Going east across the Jordan at the mouth, Greeks were seen fishing in the lagoons. Dr. Huntington saw many ruins, and found pieces of lava. Later when sitting around a tent fire, drinking coffee, his Arab host related a legend of the place which proved to be the story of Sodom and Gomorrah in its Mohammedan form.

To the east, is the uplifted plateau of Moab. The coast is very rugged. At the mouth of the Arnon River, the formation is like that of the Canyon of the Colorado. There is a deep valley cut into the plateau. Sheep-raising is the chief occupation. On the crest, there is a quick sudden change in the country, from tall wheat fields; wheat gets shorter and scarcer, till in fifteen miles there is none at all. The crop has been good for two years, but a dry third year has spoiled it.

The only rainfall is brought from the Mediterranean by westerlies, in summer, and it falls only on the windward side of mountains while the opposite side remains dry. At the same elevation, and only one day apart, two spots but twenty-five miles apart are entirely different, the one on the windward side being fertile and grown with beans and olives, the other being stony and barren. At Petra, there are now nothing but ruins. There is no water supply. The rocks here, however, are most beautiful in their many colorings. There is a narrow V-shaped gorge, in which is a huge temple of Jsus carved out of the massive rock. Nearby is the sacred well, and an old "High Place" with a platform around it, cut down from the rock. Near here are gorges of pure white sandstone in which tombs are carved, some before the Christian era.

The Dead Sea Valley is a narrow road. At the bottom is some little vegetation. Where there is a stream coming out is much salty mud, but on the other side of the water it is drier. In the Glacial period, this region was 1,400 feet higher—in the time of Joshua, it was 70 feet higher. There was then a much greater rainfall. The Dead Sea is still subject to minor fluctuations at present; these were much bigger in the past.

Dr. Huntington, in closing, showed us views of numerous ruins, as at Beersheba, where formerly 10,000 people lived in comfort and had their churches and inscriptions, and where now only a few scattered Arabs, negroid in appearance, may be seen, because of the changed climate. In March it is ninety-seven degrees, in May, one hundred to one hundred and five degrees. At Mt. Gilead, about fifteen miles away, there is good rainfall. There are large wheat fields, and women glean much as in the time of Ruth. At Palmyra, there were very few people left. The ruins are here and there built up with dwellings, and two of the eight aqueducts remain open. The water, however, has too much sulphur in it. Three centuries after Christ, the country became dry, travel stopped, and gradually the country declined to its present condition.

PARLIAMENT OF FOOLS.

Ye crowds that burble in the hall,
How can ye yell and say
Exams are through, when know my Zoo
Comes not till Saturday!

Ye mobs that shriek outside my door,
For credit's sake, skiddo!
My sign regard by leaving me
To silence and to Zoo.

FREE PRESS.

I.

Can't we tell our guests before we take them to chapel that there is a little (not much, to be sure, but still a little,) sentiment at Wellesley against conversing during the service? And can't we come to vespers at least approximately on time? Then it will be possible to sit in the gallery and enjoy the music, instead of wondering, to the accompaniment of whispers and banging doors, how to make a Free Press vigorous enough to suit the occasion.

ISADORE DOUGLAS, 1910.